

December 20, 2012

Prot. No. 6/2012

Establishment of Syro-Malabar Knanaya Catholic Parishes/Missions

Dear and Rev. Fathers and dear faithful of Knanaya Community,

During this period of Advent, let us prepare ourselves in the spirit of prayer and penance, to welcome Infant Jesus, born for us as our Savior.

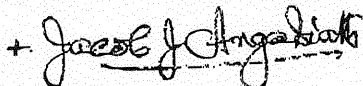
I would like to recall the instructions given to me by the Congregation for Oriental Churches in Rome (Prot. No. 85/2001, Nov. 21, 2001): "This congregation foresees a pastoral care which is sensitive to the Knanaya expectation to be served by Knanaya Priests, but does not make any allowance for endogamy to play a role in defining the membership of faithful in any mission or parish established by the Eparchy."

Based on these instructions, things have been clarified in many occasions. The membership of those Knananites who marry from outside Knanaya Community has been a question. All parishes and missions for Knanaya people in this Eparchy (Diocese) are established only on basis of this instruction. So no parish/mission is strictly endogamous.

In the analysis of this statement, we understand that those Knananites who marry non-Knanaya spouses, will not be excluded from their Knanaya parish/mission. It is true that the Syro-Malabar parish/mission is open to welcome those Knananites who marry non-Knanaya spouses. If they wish they can continue as members of the Knanaya Parish/mission. Since family is one unit and its unity is very important, his/her spouse and children will enjoy all pastoral and spiritual care from Knanaya priests at Knanaya parish/mission where his/her Knanaya spouse belongs. The priests in charge of Knanaya parish/mission should see that the spiritual and pastoral needs of these non-Knanaya faithful are fully attended. Family unity and spiritual well-being are our primary concerns.

Let us understand the mind of the Church and be united to give full support to our priests and thus build our Knanaya parishes/missions as faith filled communities during this Year of Faith.

May the Infant Jesus, Our Savior born for us, bless us at this Christmas and all through the New Year.

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Mar Jacob Angadiath  
Bishop